

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 4, lines 19-20 as indicated below:

~~FIG. 3~~ FIGS. 3a-3c ~~is a~~are cross sectional ~~view~~views along the III-III line in FIG. 2
of alternative embodiments of the present invention;

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 8 with the following:

Note that in the above-explained embodiment, kerfs are cut in the through bore 54 of the supported portion 56 to form the projection 57 by bending the partial piece between the kerfs, but it is also possible to form the projection 57 by cutting kerfs in a substantially square bracket shape in a position apart from the through bore 54 and bending the partial piece between the kerfs, or to form the projection 57 by molding without cutting kerfs. Moreover, although the projection 57 is constructed to project inwardly in the plate thickness direction, it is also possible to project the projection 57 outwardly in the plate thickness direction so as to cause the projection 57 to cut into the edge portion 33 of the locking body 3 by press-fitting force of the locking body 3, or to construct the projection 57 to project in both sides in the plate thickness direction so as to cause the projection 57 to cut into the joint portion 24 and the edge portion 33 by the press-fitting force of the locking body 3. Alternatively, in addition to causing the projection 57 to cut into the joint portion 24 and/or the edge portion 33 by the press-fitting force of the locking body 3, the recessed portion 27, 127 into which the projection 57 is to be inserted may be formed in advance in the joint portion 24 and/or the edge portion 33, so that the projection 57 can be fitted into the recessed portion 27, 127 by the press-fitting force of the locking body 3.